

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 271759Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9365

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 7051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PU, CV, US, PGOV

SUBJ: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA-BISSAU

SUMMARY: DURING COURTESY CALL DECEMBER 27, AMBASSADOR OF GUINEA-BISSAU (GOGB), FLAVIO PROENCA, INDICATED GOGB READY FACILITATE VISITFROM US OFFICIALS. PROENCA SAID PAIGC WOULD HAVE VITAL ROLE WITH REGARD FUTURE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS. HOWEVER, UNION SHOULD NOT BE FORCED BETWEEN CAPE VERDES AND GUINEA-BISSAU. ULTIMATE ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT INCLUDE ECONOMIC UNION WITH OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. PAIGC INTENDS TO JEALOUSLY SAFEGUARD ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM ANY FOREIGN POWER, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAD AIDED IT PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. PAIGC ALSO LOOKS TO US AS ONE OF BEST POTENTIAL SOURCES FOR ITS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE NEEDS.
END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR PROENCA APOLOGIZED FOR MOVING HIS APPOINTMENT AHEAD ONE DAY, BUT SAID HE HAD TO ACCOMPANY GOS PRIME MINISTER ABDOU DIOUF AND FOREIGN MINISTER SECK TO BISSAU ON DECEMBER 27.
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HE HAD HOPED TO CALL ON ME EVEN EARLIER, BUT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED

VARIOUS SPECIAL MISSIONS IN EUROPE. HE WISHED TO STRESS GOGB AND PAIGC DESIRE FOR ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH US AND SAID BOTH PEREIRA AND LUIS CABRAL HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO INFORM ME I WOULD BE WELCOME IN BISSAU WHENEVER I MADE VISIT. GOGB HAD CONCENTRATED ON ESTABLISHING ITSELF AND SO FAR HAD NOT ENCOURAGED FOREIGN VISITORS. HOWEVER, THEY FELT A VISIT FROM US OFFICIAL NOW INDICATED.

2. I THANKED PROENCA FOR INVITATION AND SAID I LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING GUINEA-BISSAU. USG DESIRED TO MOVE AHEAD ON STRENGTHENING RELATIONS, AND DEPARTMENT WOULD SEND TEAM OF TWO OFFICERS FROM WASHINGTON TO BISSAU IN FEBRUARY TO MEET GOGB OFFICIALS AND BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH COUNTRY. WE WOULD INFORM HIM OF ETA AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. HE PROMISED TO INFORM GOGB AND PAIGC LEADERS OF DEPT'S INTENTION AND SAID TEAM'S VISIT WOULD BE FACILITATED.

3. PROENCA SAID IF US INTENDED ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF RESIDENT REPRESENTATION IN BISSAU, WE SHOULD CONSIDER BUILDING RATHER THAN RENTING. THERE WERE GOOD ARTISANS IN BISSAU AND LAND AVAILABLE. WHILE HOTELS EXIST, THEY ARE RAPIDLY FILLING UP AND NEW LARGE ONE NOT YET COMPLETED. GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHING HOSTELS TO HELP ACCOMMODATE INCREASING VOLUME OF VISITORS.

4. COMMUNICATION WITH BISSAU HAD IMPROVED WITH WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO AND FROM CONAKRY AND DAKAR AND TWICE WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO AND FROM LISBON. GOGB WOULD SOON ADD ITS OWN WEEKLY FLIGHT BETWEEN BISSAU AND DAKAR. BETWEEN BISSAU AND CAPE VERDES THERE WERE THRICE WEEKLY FLIGHTS. OVERLAND ROUTE BETWEEN SENEGAL AND BISSAU STILL RECOMMENDED ONLY FOR FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES.

5. PROENCA FELT PAIGC WOULD HAVE INITIAL ROLE IN DETERMINING NATURE OF GUINEA-BISSAU-CAPE VERDE ASSOCIATION, BUT THAT CAPE VERDEAN VIEWS MUST BE TAKEN FULLY INTO CONSIDERATION AND NO ATTEMPTS MADE TO FORCE ISLANDS INTO UNION WITH THE MAINLAND. A SEPARATE INDEPENDENCE FOR ISLANDS WAS UNTHINKABLE AS WAS THEIR UNION WITH EITHER PORTUGAL, SENEGAL, OR GUINEA (CONAKRY). BUT, UNLESS ISLANDS OR MAINLAND HAD SOME RICHES HE UNAWARE OF, SUCH AS OIL, EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN BENELUX-TYPE ARRANGEMENT WITH SENEGAL AND GUINEA (CONAKRY) WOULD BE DESIRABLE. THIS WAS LATE CONFIDENTIAL

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AMILEAR CABRAL'S GOAL, AND HE WORKED TO COMPOSE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GUINEA AND SENEGAL, WHO, BECAUSE OF FORMER'S VAST NATURAL RESOURCES AND LATTER'S SUPERIOR CADRES, WERE NATURAL PARTNERS WITH BISSAU AND CAPE VERDES WHO HAD RURAL ORGANIZATION AND ARTISANAL SKILLS.

6. PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONALS WERE BEGINNING TO RETURN TO BISSAU, PROENCA REPORTED. THIS WAS GOOD BECAUSE THOSE

WHO RETURN ACCEPT THE NEW RELATIONSHIP. PAIGC WELCOMED THEM IN NEW PARTNERSHIP. GOGB WOULD MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO LET OVERSEAS STUDENTS COMPLETE THEIR COURSES BEFORE CALLING THEM HOME. HIGH PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING SCHOOLS IN GUINEA-BISSAU-CAPE VERDES.

7. GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDES HAD MANY NEEDS, ACCORDING TO PROENCA. PAIGC FELT US AMONG COUNTRIES BEST EQUIPPED TO HELP AND LOOKED FORWARD TO BEGINNING OF US ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. US SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT IDEOLOGY. PAIGC HAD FOUGHT TOO HARD FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BECOME SATELLITE OF ANY FOREIGN POWER. WHILE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD PROVIDED MAJOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PAIGC WAS AWARE OF AID TO REFUGEES AND OTHER SUCCOR WEST, INCLUDING US, HAD PROVIDED. I SAID USG HAD GENUINE INTEREST IN WELFARE OF PEOPLE OF NEW STATE, AS HAD BEEN INDICATED IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE NOTED DURING FORTHCOMING VISITS OF US OFFICIALS TO BISSAU. FLAVIO PROENCA SAID GOGB UN PERMREP SCHEDULED TO GO TO LISBON AND WOULD BE REPLACED IN NEW YORK BY GIL FERNANDES, WHO PROBABLY WOULD BE ACCREDITED ALSO IN WASHINGTON.

8. COMMENT: FLAVIO PROENCA IS SUAVE, PRAGMATIC AND ARTICULATE OFFICIAL, FLUENT IN ENGLISH AS WELL AS FRENCH, CREOLE AND PORTUGUESE. AN ECONOMIST TRAINED IN HUNGARY, WEST GERMANY, AND DAKAR, HE IS PREOCCUPIED BY HIS COUNTRY'S URGENT DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND WHAT HE CONSIDERS ITS LIMITED POTENTIAL AS SEPARATE POLITICAL ENTITY. IN THIS CONTEXT HE BELIEVES US CAN MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION AND APPEARS TO WISH TO CORRECT ANY IMPRESSION THAT PAIGC HAS ANTI-WESTERN TILT OR DILATORY IN ESTABLISHING WORKING BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH US.
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